



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-02-119

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### UNSCHEDULED WINTER NATURAL GAS FILING APPROVED FOR MISSOURI GAS ENERGY

Jefferson City (January 28, 2002)---Natural gas customers of Missouri Gas Energy will see **lower natural gas rates** under an unscheduled winter season filing approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This decrease, which primarily reflects a reduction in the wholesale cost of natural gas, takes effect February 1, 2002.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.51682 per Ccf (100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will drop to \$0.46303 per Ccf, a decrease of approximately 5.3 cents per Ccf. **The effect of the proposed rate on a typical residential heating customer's natural gas bills for the remaining winter season is a decrease of \$20.23 or 3 percent when compared to the rates currently in effect.**

Approximately 60% to 70% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its supplier for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does have regulatory review authority to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Missouri Gas Energy serves approximately 492,000 natural gas customers in western Missouri.

